

# THE WEEKLY CHRONICLE

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic Economy,

and the Current News of the Day.

XX.—NEW SERIES.

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NUMBER 48.

## THANKSGIVING.

For the hay and the corn and the wheat that  
is reaped,  
For the labor well done, and the barns that  
are heaped,  
For the sun and the dew and the sweet  
honeycomb,  
For the rose and the song and the harvest  
brought home—  
Thanksgiving! thanksgiving!  
For the trade and the skill and the wealth in  
our land,  
For the cunning and strength of the work-  
ingman's hand,  
For the good that our artists and poets have  
taught,  
For the friendship that hope and affection  
have brought—  
Thanksgiving! thanksgiving!  
For the homes that with purest affection are  
blest,  
For the season of plenty and well-deserved  
rest,  
For our country extending from sea unto  
sea,  
The land that is known as the "Land of the  
Free"—  
Thanksgiving! thanksgiving!  
Harper's Weekly.

## HOW WE GOT OUR TURKEY.

A THANKSGIVING STORY.  
HERE was no doubt  
that the country was  
prosperous. No reason-  
able man could  
deny it. The har-  
vests had been plente-  
ous, the earth had  
yielded up her fruits  
in abundance, and  
there were abundant  
reasons for thank-  
sgiving. I read the  
President's Thanksgiving  
message and agreed  
with it heartily, as far  
as others were con-  
cerned, but somehow I  
couldn't see how it ap-  
plied to me. I was  
well, and I was  
willing to confess I  
was. The fact is  
that when the cake is  
going around I don't  
want to get a piece. If  
I don't get it I feel  
disappointed. While I  
am in the abstract  
that others come in for  
a share of the cake, in  
the concrete I am  
mad because it passes me.

But, perhaps, after all, I am too sweep-  
ing in my conclusions. I don't know  
but that there is one person in the world  
who is capable of self-sacrifice of a high  
order, and that is my wife Nellie. Bless  
her little heart. I am almost willing to  
overlook all the weakness of humanity  
for her sake. Why, I've known her to  
go without bread and butter when she  
was faint with hunger so that the chil-  
dren were three years ago in the  
memory of her courage and  
self-denial makes my eyes wet.

You see, Nellie was always practical  
and unselfish, while I was impractical  
and poetic. Why, if I had her execu-  
tive ability I'd have been a millionaire  
by this time, a cool millionaire, with a  
yacht and a country house on the Hud-  
son. But she was handicapped by her  
sex and the children and couldn't ex-  
ercise her natural gifts.  
I must go on, however, and tell my  
story. The month preceding Thank-  
sgiving Day of 1885, was the gloomiest  
time I ever witnessed. We had just ar-  
rived in the city from Shandaken, N. Y.,  
in the Catskills. I was a farmer's boy  
and Nellie was a farmer's daughter. Be-  
fore we were married a famous singer  
spent the summer in our village. One  
night at a strawberry festival he heard  
me sing, and was kind enough to say  
that I had an excellent tenor voice, and  
with proper culture I could command  
a good salary as a choir singer in New York.  
Of course such encouragement fired me  
with hope. The farm became distaste-  
ful to me, and I determined to cultivate  
my voice instead of cultivating corn.

We had an old-fashioned melodeon in  
the house, and with the help of a few  
lessons the famous singer gave me and  
what I could learn from hints in the  
opening pages of the choir books, I made  
it a burden for the rest of the family  
with my do, re, me, being every evening.  
I made progress, too, under the cir-  
cumstances and Nellie fell in love with  
me on account of my voice. I remember  
distinctly that her favorite was a little  
selection from one of Mendelssohn's  
songs without words set to the following  
lines:  
Still, still with thee when purple morning  
breaketh,  
When the bird wateeth and the shadows  
fade;  
Fairest than morning, lovelier than the day-  
light  
Comes the sweet consciousness, I am with  
thee.

Well, we were married, and for a  
time my music was given up. But the  
life of a farmer fretted me, and I took  
up my music again, and after two years  
hard work at it we moved to the city. I  
thought in my ignorance of metropolitan  
life that I should have no difficulty in  
procuring a situation, but I soon found  
out my mistake. In the first place I  
found that I was incompetent. I was de-  
ficient in style. My voice, while strong  
and resonant, had not been properly  
trained. Then, too, there was no vacan-  
cies. Even if I had been competent  
there were fifty applicants for every po-  
sition. Before I had been in the city for  
two weeks I heartily wished myself  
back in Shandaken again.

In the meantime the little money I had  
saved and brought with me melted away  
like snow on the roof of a barn. My time  
was mainly taken up in running around  
to the musical agencies looking for a  
situation. I had a little job on Sundays  
singing at a mission on Avenue A, where  
I earned \$2, and for three weeks that was  
all I earned. We lived in East New  
York and my car fare cost me sixteen  
cents.  
You will readily see that we had to  
live frugally. In fact, for two weeks we  
lived upon oatmeal and molasses, and to-  
ward the last there was no molasses, and  
Thanksgiving coming over the hills.  
Every night when I got out at Manhattan  
avenue my three little girls were standing  
at the foot of the stairway waiting for  
me. I could see them from the top of  
the stairs, all in a row, their little cloaks  
flapping in the chill November wind,  
their lips blue and teeth rattling like  
castanets.  
Wait a minute. It makes me feel faint  
to think of it, even after the lapse of  
three years. Well, it's all over now, I  
don't know why it affects me so strongly.  
There was something humorous, too, in  
the way the little tots jumped around to  
keep warm. As soon as they saw the  
train swing around the turn they ranged  
themselves in a row and looked upward  
so wistfully, oh, so wistfully, to see their  
papa. For you must know that although  
not one word of our desperate situation  
had been breathed in their hearing, yet  
their keen intuitions had told them some-  
thing was wrong, and they knew as well  
as their mother that I was looking for  
work. How eagerly they looked in my  
face each evening, so that if there was a  
ray of hope in it the eldest could start on  
a run to tell her mother the good news!  
Of course I cheered them with fairy  
tales of what a wonderful big turkey we  
would have on Thanksgiving. A gob-  
bler of tremendous size, who had strutt-  
ed when alive like a prince in the story  
books. Then followed a description of  
the cranberry sauce and the huge wedges  
of mince pie. All this took place while  
I was carrying two of the children in my  
arms and the other was hanging on to my  
coat at my side. I hope I shall be for-  
gotten for those lies. For they were lies.

ers, for the room was growing cold. But  
the chill air did not affect me. I was  
giving birth to a poem. The second  
stanza came easier. What bothered me  
most was the rhyme. I think, to the  
best of my recollection, the second  
instalment consumed a half hour of in-  
tense thought. I was better satisfied  
than with the first stanza, because I knew  
it was truer. Here it is, just as I read it  
to Nellie:  
His comb is as red as ruddy wine,  
His breast is a shining shield;  
But his carcass is safe from me and mine—  
We can't pick his wishbone clean.  
The muse was rather skittish at the  
third stanza. I coaxed her with a pipe  
of tobacco, the fumes of which made Nel-  
lie cough, and I persuaded her to go to  
bed. The clock struck 11. The wind  
rattled the window frame and I began to  
think that I had better go to bed.  
I almost fell asleep over this stanza.  
While laboriously constructing it there  
came a picture to me of the old farm  
house in the Catskills, the table groaning  
with its weight of good things. It oc-  
curred to me just then that I was doing  
the groaning now. When finished, after  
many interlunations and corrections, it  
read as follows:  
There was a time long, long ago,  
When deprived of his feathered vest,  
I seized his leg in my strong right hand,  
And dissected his meaty breast.  
By this time I had got into the spirit  
of my undertaking. The lines ran off  
the end of my pen as smoothly as water  
runs off a duck's back. With a confi-  
dent smile I finished the last verse.  
The next morning I had to fill up the  
hole in a ten-cent piece with soap and  
ashes in order to deceive the toll-taker at  
the elevated railroad station. All the  
way down town I read and reread the  
alleged poem, trying to perfect it. When  
I arrived in New York I hesitated before  
the big newspaper offices, afraid to go  
in. At last I managed to pluck up  
courage enough to go up stairs, where,  
contrary to my expectations, I was kindly  
received and was told that my poem  
would be read, and if it possessed suffi-  
cient merit it would be printed. 'Twas  
encouraging, to be sure, but what was I  
going to do in the meantime for the tur-  
key?

The day was spent in the usual way,  
running around looking for a job and  
finding none. I managed, however, to  
earn fifty cents by carrying some coal.  
It hurt my pride to do it, but the faces  
of the children rose before me, and I  
would almost have committed murder  
just then.  
With a heavy heart I started to walk  
over the bridge just after sunset. The  
wind blew cold from the northeast, and I  
buttoned my coat close to my chin. It  
was a starlit night. The great towers  
loomed up above me like entrances to  
some gigantic temple. The river rushed  
and swirled below, and reflected in silver  
gleams the light from the electric lamps.  
It was a magnificent sight, and I felt  
strangely drawn toward the river.  
For a time I forgot the babies and Nellie.  
Behind me was the great, roaring city,  
with its thousands of men and  
women struggling for existence. I  
had been trampled under foot in the  
crush. Why should I return and renew  
the battle? As I brooded over the river,  
chilled to the marrow by the searching  
wind, the water seemed to beckon me.  
Its shifting currents whispered "Come,"  
its shadowy, gleaming rifts, its miniature  
molesters seemed to my excited fancy  
to say: "Here's rest for you. We'll  
bear you away to dreamland, where hun-  
ger and pain and sorrow are drowned in  
the nepeenthe of eternal rest."

In this state of partial unconsciousness  
I began to climb up the railing to reach  
the roadway below, when a policeman  
touched me on the shoulder and told me  
to "move on." I did move on, but in a  
dazed, uncertain way, until I reached  
the Brooklyn entrance. Here the crowd  
from the cars was pouring out in the  
street like a torrent, and in the crush I  
was hustled about and at last stumbled  
into the arms of a stout man muffled  
in an old army overcoat. He held me away  
from him by my arms. Then he shook  
me and said:  
"What's the matter with you, Tom?  
Ye ain't drunk, he ye?"  
There was something familiar in the  
voice, and looking up I saw the homely  
face of Sam Jones, of Shandaken, before  
me. Then came another shake, and this  
time I came to myself again.

"By George, Sam, I'm glad to see  
you," I stammered.  
"Well, let's go an' get somethin' to  
warm you up. You're near froze, man."  
Thawed and melted by a steaming cup  
of coffee, I told Sam all the sorrowful  
story. How the children would be wait-  
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key?

The day was spent in the usual way,  
running around looking for a job and  
finding none. I managed, however, to  
earn fifty cents by carrying some coal.  
It hurt my pride to do it, but the faces  
of the children rose before me, and I  
would almost have committed murder  
just then.  
With a heavy heart I started to walk  
over the bridge just after sunset. The  
wind blew cold from the northeast, and I  
buttoned my coat close to my chin. It  
was a starlit night. The great towers  
loomed up above me like entrances to  
some gigantic temple. The river rushed  
and swirled below, and reflected in silver  
gleams the light from the electric lamps.  
It was a magnificent sight, and I felt  
strangely drawn toward the river.  
For a time I forgot the babies and Nellie.  
Behind me was the great, roaring city,  
with its thousands of men and  
women struggling for existence. I  
had been trampled under foot in the  
crush. Why should I return and renew  
the battle? As I brooded over the river,  
chilled to the marrow by the searching  
wind, the water seemed to beckon me.  
Its shifting currents whispered "Come,"  
its shadowy, gleaming rifts, its miniature  
molesters seemed to my excited fancy  
to say: "Here's rest for you. We'll  
bear you away to dreamland, where hun-  
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In this state of partial unconsciousness  
I began to climb up the railing to reach  
the roadway below, when a policeman  
touched me on the shoulder and told me  
to "move on." I did move on, but in a  
dazed, uncertain way, until I reached  
the Brooklyn entrance. Here the crowd  
from the cars was pouring out in the  
street like a torrent, and in the crush I  
was hustled about and at last stumbled  
into the arms of a stout man muffled  
in an old army overcoat. He held me away  
from him by my arms. Then he shook  
me and said:  
"What's the matter with you, Tom?  
Ye ain't drunk, he ye?"  
There was something familiar in the  
voice, and looking up I saw the homely  
face of Sam Jones, of Shandaken, before  
me. Then came another shake, and this  
time I came to myself again.

"By George, Sam, I'm glad to see  
you," I stammered.  
"Well, let's go an' get somethin' to  
warm you up. You're near froze, man."  
Thawed and melted by a steaming cup  
of coffee, I told Sam all the sorrowful  
story. How the children would be wait-  
ing at the station for me expecting the  
turkey I had foolishly promised them and  
my inability to procure it. I was inter-  
rupted at intervals by exclamations from  
Sam such as:  
"Well, I'll be blessed! You kin bet  
yer boots them kids is goin' to hav' their  
turkey! B'gosh! I ailers did say that  
the city's no place for a farmer!"  
Under the cheerful influence of Sam's  
sympathy I soon regained my lost cour-  
age. He insisted that we should go to  
the nearest grocery, where he picked out  
the biggest turkey he could find. Then  
there were two quarts of cranberries,  
three big mince pies, a package of candy  
for the children, a bunch of crisp celery,

and other things appropriate to Thank-  
sgiving Day.  
When Sam left me at the elevated  
station he pressed a \$5 bill into my hand,  
despite my protests, with the remark:  
"Now, you take it, old man. I got  
good prices for my truck this season.  
Sides that I am only lending it to ye.  
Ye've got to pay me every cent back!"  
to Nellie:  
His comb is as red as ruddy wine,  
His breast is a shining shield;  
But his carcass is safe from me and mine—  
We can't pick his wishbone clean.

The muse was rather skittish at the  
third stanza. I coaxed her with a pipe  
of tobacco, the fumes of which made Nel-  
lie cough, and I persuaded her to go to  
bed. The clock struck 11. The wind  
rattled the window frame and I began to  
think that I had better go to bed.  
I almost fell asleep over this stanza.  
While laboriously constructing it there  
came a picture to me of the old farm  
house in the Catskills, the table groaning  
with its weight of good things. It oc-  
curred to me just then that I was doing  
the groaning now. When finished, after  
many interlunations and corrections, it  
read as follows:  
There was a time long, long ago,  
When deprived of his feathered vest,  
I seized his leg in my strong right hand,  
And dissected his meaty breast.  
By this time I had got into the spirit  
of my undertaking. The lines ran off  
the end of my pen as smoothly as water  
runs off a duck's back. With a confi-  
dent smile I finished the last verse.  
The next morning I had to fill up the  
hole in a ten-cent piece with soap and  
ashes in order to deceive the toll-taker at  
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Mark Knr, who killed his wife to death  
at Hazleton, Pa., was sentenced to six years  
in state prison. —Lenora Hull & Co.,  
of Philadelphia, obtained a verdict of \$28.50  
against the Reading Railroad, for destruction  
by fire of their stock fact ry, caused, as  
they alleged, by sparks from a passing loc-  
omotive. —A man named Egge shot and  
killed Sophia Roth, a waiter girl in a hotel  
at Elgin, Ill., because she refused to marry  
him, and then committed suicide. —Ivan  
Pavin, the Russian litterateur, renounced in-  
fidelity, and was received by baptism into  
the Baptist Church of Minneapolis. —A  
Kans. judge decided that a hotel bar is not a  
dram shop. —The Southern Lutheran Sen-  
ior Ministry will be located at Newberry, S. C.  
—The West Virginia Grand Emancipa-  
tion, L. O. O. F., of Charleston, W. Va.,  
elected a new Grand Master, and a new  
Grand Worthy Councilman. —The Pennsylvania  
Railroad was derided at Pittsburgh and took fire,  
several passengers being badly burned. —Gov-  
ernor Fleming, of Florida, has transmitted  
to Secretary Blaine the complaints of the  
Key West Board of Trade of the Spanish  
consul aiding and abetting the striking cigar  
makers. —The first news in a year from the  
United States government surveying expedi-  
tion in Alaska has been received at St. Louis  
by the father of John McGrath, one of the  
leaders of the expedition, who reports the  
party making good progress.

Willie Buckalew, aged twenty years, was  
killed by a Baltimore and Ohio Railroad lo-  
comotive at Keyser, W. Va. —Wm. J. Wind-  
sor's cannery factory, near Salisbury, Md.,  
was burned. —Dr. Wm. Wilson, chief law  
clerk of the House of Commons of Canada,  
was taken suddenly ill on the street in New  
York city, and died in a station house. —  
The secretary of the Young Men's Christian  
Association in Jersey City was arrested for  
distributing tracts and permitting the mem-  
bers to sing on the streets of Jersey City. —  
The Pyne Point Wreck in Hills, in Camden,  
N. J., were burned. Loss, \$100,000. —Twenty-  
eight horses and mules perished in the burn-  
ing of Howe & Parker Ice Company's stables,  
at Nashville, Tenn. —T. C. Leake, Jr.,  
prominent in various mining and land com-  
panies in the South, and president of the  
Alabama Land and Improvement Company,  
died at Richmond, Va. —"Black Bart"  
Holmes was convicted of murder and ro-  
bbery at Bossmore, Mich., and sentenced  
to hard labor for life. —Diphtheria is rag-  
ing at Elkhart, Ind., one family alone los-  
ing four children in two days. —A quarrel,  
in regard to a lawsuit for one dollar and a half,  
at Oplis, Utah, caused Charles Wayman to  
shoot and kill James Kelly. —William Mur-  
phy, a prominent sporting man of San An-  
tonio, Texas, was shot and killed in a saloon by  
James Ellis. —The Tradesmen's Bank, of  
Cincinnati, Ohio, which was nearly wrecked  
by the devaluation of Cashier C. Esten, will  
be reopened for business. —George Pauphey,  
a brakeman on the New York, Susquehanna  
and Potomac Railroad, was crushed to death  
by a freight car. —The National Prison  
at Elmira, N. Y., was burned.

deserted by her husband, a Calis-  
forner, at Newark, N. J., whether they  
had gone from New York to spend the hon-  
ey-moon. —The coal miners' strike in Spring  
Valley, Ill., has settled. —The no-nal cap-  
ital stock of the new steel combine will be  
\$12,000,000. —The Patriotic Order of Sons  
of America in Columbus, Ohio, has sued the  
Board of Education to prevent it from al-  
lowing a Catholic priest to occupy rooms in  
one of the school buildings.

The third biennial session of the United  
Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church  
South convened in Wilmington, N. C. —  
One hundred and fifty of the cadets at West  
Point United States Military Academy are  
ill from an epidemic of the bowels. —The  
next annual session of the Woman's Christian  
Temperance Union will be held in Atlanta,  
Ga. —The governors of all the states have  
been invited to a meeting in Washington  
next month, to urge upon Congress the ap-  
propriation of a sum to secure the erection  
of a suitable monument in Philadelphia to  
commemorate the Declaration of Independ-  
ence, and of the first one hundred years of  
the constitutional history of the United  
States. —The coal miners of the four pools  
in the Monongahela Valley will strike for an  
advance of one-half cent per bushel in the  
price of mining. —Three men were killed in  
a railroad wreck near Aberdeen, Miss. —  
The California raisin growers are expect-  
ing a boom, on account of the shortness of the  
Malaga crop. —John Henry, an old sailor,  
fell or jumped from a passenger train near  
Williamsport, Pa. —Samuel J. Lockard,  
aged sixty years, of Wheeling, W. Va., was  
struck by a railroad train and fatally hurt.  
—Reinhold Holzmayr, alias "Black Bart,"  
a lonker, has confessed his several train and  
stage coach robberies. —Sixty per cent of  
the forage companies of the United States  
have formed a combination for mutual pro-  
tection. —By an explosion of giant powder,  
a mine belonging to a construction corps on  
the Northern Pacific Railroad, near Butte,  
Montana, were killed. —The Capital Hotel  
at Dallas, Texas, was burned. Loss, \$50,000.  
—Insurance \$30,000. —Miss B. Thelma Gates was  
thrown from a horse at St. Johnsbury, Vt., and  
her foot catching in a stirrup, she was  
dragged through the streets and killed. —  
Chief Justice W. N. Smith, of the North  
Carolina Supreme Court died at Raleigh. —  
Thomas Murrian, a passenger on the steam-  
ship British Princess, from Liverpool, was  
arrested in Philadelphia, charged with for-  
gery in the registry department of the British  
postoffice at Castle Ballington, Ireland. The  
United States ship-of-war Sar